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Declaration
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PATENT
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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE
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PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, ON

SIGNATURE

DATE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Thomas R. St. Myer
Serial No. : 09/684,729
Filing Date : October 6, 2000
For : STEERING COLUMN WITH
IMPROVED HOUSING
Group Art Unit : 3682
Examiner : T. McAnulty
Attorney Docket No. : TRW(RG)4902
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.132

I, Thomas R. St. Myer, declare as follows:

1) I am the sole inventor of the invention described in
the above-identified patent application.

2) I was an employee of TRW Inc., the assignee of the
above-identified patent application at the time of my
invention. TRW Inc., has recently become TRW Automotive U.S.
LLC. I am currently employed by TRW Automotive U.S. LLC.

3) While employed by TRW, Inc., I conducted multiple
laboratory tests with David Kummings, who was also employed by
TRW Inc. at the time of my invention, to determine a housing
design having annular ribs and grooves for the vehicle
steering column according to the above-identified patent

application which would prevent walk out of a gasket placed into the housing.

4) The results of these tests were tabulated and critical range parameters of the measurements for the housing design with annular ribs and grooves for the vehicle steering column were determined. The tabulated test results can not be found.

5) The test results established that range parameters of the width of each rib in the housing of between 0.068 inches to 0.078 inches, as recited in claims 3 and 18, is critical to prevent walk out of the gasket in the vehicle steering column and cutting of the gasket by a rib.

6) The test results established that range parameters of the height of each rib in the housing of between 0.025 inches to 0.035 inches is critical to prevent walk out of the gasket in the vehicle steering column.

7) The test results established that range parameters of each flat peak of each rib in the housing having an axial length of between 0.012 to 0.022 inches is critical to prevent walk out of the gasket in the vehicle steering column and cutting of the gasket by a rib.

8) The test results established that range parameters of each flat valley of each annular groove of the housing of between 0.012 to 0.022 inches is critical to prevent walk out of the gasket in the vehicle steering column.

9) The test results established that an angle of approximately 57 degrees at which the side surfaces of each rib of the housing extends from the flat valley of each annular groove is critical to prevent walk out of the gasket in the vehicle steering column and cutting of the gasket by a rib.

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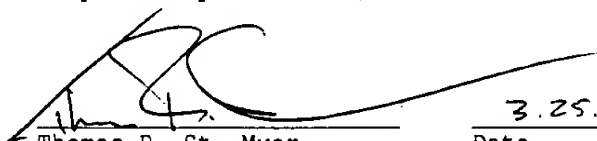
10) Multiple tests were conducted with housings having ribs and grooves with measurement range parameters both above and below the critical range parameters of the measurements stated in paragraphs 5-9.

11) The tests results demonstrated that the gasket walked out of the housing and or be cut by a rib where the measurements of the ribs and annular grooves were outside of, above and below, the critical range parameters of the measurements stated in paragraphs 5-9.

12) I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Further, Declarant sayeth not.

Respectfully submitted,


Thomas R. St. Myer 3.25.03
Date